

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06484 091404Z
ACTION SAA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SES-02
/041 W

-----013161 091407Z /53

O 091331Z AUG 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA FLASH
AMEMBASSY JIDDA FLASH
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7195
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 06484

FOR AMBASSADOR ATHERTON FROM CHARGE

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP(ATHERTON, ALFRED)
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF AMBASSADOR ATHERTON

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0668

1. PER YOUR REQUEST I HAVE CHECKED WITH PALACE CHIEF SHARAF ON POSSIBILITY OF ADVANCING TIME OF YOUR MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN TO LATE THURSDAY AFTERNOON OR EVENING AND EXPLAINED YOUR LATE RECEIPT OF OUR MESSAGE AND YOUR DESIRE TO BE IN WASHINGTON BEFORE MONDAY.

2. KING DEPARTED FOR AQABA TODAY WHERE HE WILL REMAIN UNTIL SATURDAY MORNING AND SHARAF SAID HE FELT IT WOULD BE FAR PREFERABLE FOR YOU TO KEEP TO SATURDAY MEETING WITH
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KING IN AMMAN. SHARAF SAID FRIDAY IS KING'S ACCESSION TO THRONE DAY AND IMPLIED TRIP WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THAT REASON AMONG OTHERS.

3. THERE ARE OBVIOUS LOGISTIC PROBLEMS IN GETTING YOU TO AQABA (NOTE: AIRPORT DOES NOT OPERATE AFTER DARK, ARAB WINGS CHARTER AIRCRAFT AMMAN/AQABA/AMMAN COSTS \$1200 AND

FOUR-HOUR ROAD TRIP AFTER DARK IS UNSAFE.)

4. SHARAF CONCLUDED THAT IF YOU FEEL THERE IS GENUINE EMERGENCY THAT WOULD REQUIRE URGENT MEETING HE WOULD OF COURSE CONTACT KING BUT THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE HE THOUGHT KEEPING TO SATURDAY MEETING IN AMMAN WOULD BE FAR PREFERABLE.

5. UNLESS THERE ARE OVER-RIDING REASONS TO CONTRARY, I RECOMMEND YOU ADHERE TO SATURDAY MEETING IN AMMAN WITH KING HUSSEIN. PROTOCOL CHIEF HIKMAT HAD EARLIER INVESTIGATED POSSIBILITY OF FRIDAY MEETING IN AQABA BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO ARRANGE IT, I PRESUME AFTER CHECKING DIRECTLY WITH KING HUSSEIN. I THINK THIS WOULD ALSO APPLY TO THURSDAY MEETING THERE.

6. EMBASSY THEREFORE SEES NO ALTERNATIVE TO YOUR DEPARTURE AS OUTLINED PARA. ONE REFTEL ON AUGUST 13 AND ARRIVAL WASHINGTON AT 1400 HOURS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 14. YOUR FLIGHT RESERVATIONS AMMAN/LONDON/DULLES ARE CONFIRMED.
SUDDARTH

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